

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING Joint with VNC Board
Date: August 10, 2023 | Time: 6:00 P.M.
Location: Extra Space Storage, 658 Venice Blvd, CA 90291
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6 p.m.

Roll Call: Helen Fallon, Lisa Redmond, Eric Hartnack -All members present, no declarations of exparte communications or conflicts of interest (applies to Board members)

Minutes of July 13, 2023 approved: 2/0/1/0
Fallon yes, Redmond yes, Hartnack abstain

New Business:

1. Motion: The VNC Board of Officers approves the July 2023 Monthly Expenditure(MER) See supporting document. Approved 2/0/1/0
Moved/Seconded: Redmond/Fallon Fallon yes, Redmond yes, Hartnack yes
2. Report from Lisa Redmond on several less expensive alternatives to Constant Contact (vendor currently providing e-blast service-\$145/month for approx. 6500 emails) and discussion regarding these alternatives. See supporting document for report. Note: Communications-Nico Ruderman recently negotiated a 40% discount.

Motion: Report will be forwarded to the Communications Chair and to the Outreach Committee with a request to review and return with comments/recommendations to the Budget Committee within 60 days. Approved 3/0/0/0
Moved/Seconded Fallon/Hartnack Fallon yes, Redmond yes, Hartnack yes

3. Summary of General Discussion and Information

Google e-mail cost has increased effective August from \$3/email to \$7/email/month. Nico Ruderman (Communications) is eliminating and consolidating e-mails in an effort to reduce costs.

LAUSD is charging \$90 application fee every time a request is made for a meeting date at Westminster school. Helen Fallon has reached out to Alison Pohill (Senior Advisor to LAUSD Bd Member Nick Melvoin) to ask that this be waived. City Clerk's office has been contacted and has agreed to look into the creation of an MOU (memorandum of understanding) between the City/Empower and LAUSD to waive this fee for NCs.

City owned facilities are available at no charge to NCs: Board Member Soledad Ursua is reaching out to Recs and Park to see if VNC could have free meeting or storage space in the Building at the Westminster Dog Park. Committee Member Eric Harnack will look into meeting space availability at Pen Mar Rec Center for Board meetings.

Next month: we will discuss what requirements VNC should have for NPGs (Neighborhood Purpose Grants): suggestions include requiring a report within 30 or 60 days of project completion, requiring more specific budgets in application, requesting Form 990 from nonprofits (a public document), awarding NPGs only at certain times of the year, and limiting amounts awarded. Per City Clerk the VNC can have more restrictive requirements. City Clerk's office is also working on creating a CIP (Community Improvement Project) form.

Next meeting: September 12th, 6 p.m. at the Venice Public Library

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

